

Interviewer: —in the Southern fields that weren't union. And he got real aggravated that they couldn't organize down there. So he came north and worked up in Cabin Creek and got involved in his local union there and kind of worked his way up from the union and became an officer.

Interviewee: Well, we was working over there in Briar Creek. I don't know if you know where Briar Creek is.

Interviewer: No, where's that?

Interviewee: Go down right over here about eight miles the creek comes in at. In 1916 me and him were working that. I was loading coal and he was working in the slate of the night for a contractor, you know. And then when they had this union election, he was candidate for the secretary and treasurer and he was elected, you know. And Fred said, "I'm going down and getting my money." I don't know what he going home or where he was going, but anyway, he said, "I'm going down and getting my money and going somewhere." I said _____ paid. And he said, "I'm going to work the day," he said, "And money — money is due, and I'm gonna get mine."

And I reckon he did. I didn't go with him. I no — never heard any more about it, you know?

I think Fred, like myself, didn't have much education. At the time I think they went to school the last year he was elected secretary and treasurer. That's how you make good call; I know that.

Interviewer: He did make a good time.

Interviewee: Mm-hmm.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm.

Interviewee: Yeah, I'd like to hear it.

Interviewer: You suppose he made a good officer?

Interviewee: Oh yes. Yes, ma'am.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm.

Interviewee: The operator was too much for us at that time. You know, I mean put us all out of business.

Interviewer: Do you think there was any tactic you could've used at that point that would've been successful, or do you think you tried everything you possibly could?

Interviewee: I think so.

Interviewer: Yeah?

Interviewee: The men wouldn't stick, and that was the trouble, you know?

Interviewer: They wouldn't what?

Interviewee: The men wouldn't hold up the union like – like the _____ done it, you know? There wasn't many of us stepping out. I was on – I recognized the whole of them around here that did, you know?

Interviewer: Can you explain to me why that was? Why wouldn't they stick with the union? It seems like the union was really for their best interest.

Interviewee: Well, I don't know. And this – it had the bottom to them, right? Didn't have big backbone and stuff like that, as the saying goes, you know?

You know _____ arrested _____ and go and sit in the time on the _____. A car _____ arrested – cops caught _____ arrested, you know what he did?

Interviewer: Yeah?

Interviewee: When he go there and _____, I don't know about hollering and I don't know – too loud. Loud and _____. _____.

Interviewer: Oh, mm-hmm.

Interviewee: You know about now how to get over that Charleston Bridge Road.

Interviewer: Okay. Okay.

Interviewee: Then you go down the creek quite a ways, or you can't _____ _____. I couldn't tell you just what – exactly how to stop, right? And anybody down there now can tell you about the Mooneys.

Interviewer: Okay.

Interviewee: They was raised in there, country, you know, down there.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. That's probably so. You know, is there anything else you can tell me about the Battle of Blair Mountain? You know, I – you know more about it than I do, and any little story you can tell me about it I'd like to hear.

Interviewee: Well, I told about all I can tell you. I know a lot of shooting done up there. I know a lot of people in there and a lot of guns and stuff. To say you'd a reckon, you know, I don't _____ get out of that one. And they come out on the passenger train. They moved us all up _____. Not all of us; a lot of them done took to the hills and run off and flew and any way to get home, you know, with the soldiers coming in.

Interviewer: Do you know if any of the fellows on the other side were shot?

Interviewee: No. Well, they say – you haven't talked to John Gollar _____, he was the deputy sheriff when Don Chafin was deputy.

Interviewer: Mm-hmm.

Interviewee: I'd never seen him. I mean he had a _____ whether they did or not I don't know; I didn't see. I know they were all shooting, and shooting at the law _____.

Interviewer: Did you build fortifications up there to hide behind?

Interviewee: No. we didn't know where they was at. You know, they're like going by the ridge. There's not a _____ one end to the other. And if he isn't shooting over here, but _____ up here there'd be somebody up here, you know. So I'm not saying on the other side. I imagine – I wasn't going on the – never was on the other side, you know, never crossed the hill.

Interviewer: You know what I heard, was that more people were killed by their own men than got killed by the other side.

Interviewee: Well, I wouldn't doubt that a bit, too. I wouldn't doubt that a bit. You know, a lot of those boys were young fellas with _____. Anything that moved just up and shoot, you know?

Interviewer: You know, one guy that I talked to down in Logan County told me that even when they didn't have the union in there, even when they

were still working in the scab mines, that they were still kind of all union men at heart.

Interviewee: Well, yeah.

Interviewer: Well, they felt like union men, even though they couldn't get the union in there.

Interviewee: _____.

Interviewer: That's right. I wondered if you were working in the scab mines up here if you felt the same way?

Interviewee: Well, I hadn't worked in – on the scab mines, so I couldn't tell you about that.

Interviewer: Well, more like the people that were working in the mines up here, did they–

Interviewee: Well, the people that I knewed of in Creek _____, there was a lot of them, you know? They just picked them. One, you wouldn't get no conversation out of them, you know; they wouldn't talk to you and would just keep going.

Interviewer: Why was that?

Interviewee: Well, they know they didn't – they didn't like the scabs, you know? They had nothing against me. They liked to, but they didn't have nothing they could pin on me, so.

Interviewer: You know, when Fred Mooney was secretary and treasurer of the union here, was he let's say pretty responsive to what the men in the union wanted? If they wanted something would he go and do it or was he more like a dictator?

Interviewee: No, Fred was a good man to get along with. You know, like the union part. He was strictly a union man, you know, and I assumed a lot, and a lot I didn't assume, so. Yeah, I liked Fred. Oh, I heard him speak up in Dallas when the strike and _____ working, scabbing that _____. A lot of them was working there that was – felt just like Fred did about it, but frankly just had to work, so I don't know. I didn't have to work. I _____ made it as bad as it was. And _____ speak up _____, so _____ a clue. But they just loaded their car _____ on that shops.

The kid, I never did see him. You know, he was president of the District 17, but I never did see him. But he went like _____. You'd be _____ the same place of the _____. If they worked the same mine he would [*inaudible*].

Interviewer: I think maybe I'm going to have to be getting on. I have to drive down to Logan yet this afternoon.

Interviewee: Do you?

Interviewer: Yeah, I'm going to go down there.

[End of Audio]